



# 2013 WATER QUALITY REPORT

## CITY OF SAVANNAH

### GEORGETOWN/GATEWAY SYSTEM JANUARY 2013 - DECEMBER 2013

#### ***Important Information About the Safety of Your Drinking Water***

*(A message from John Sawyer, Water & Sewer Bureau Director)*

The City of Savannah Water Supply and Treatment Department is pleased to report to you that the drinking water supplied by the Georgetown/Gateway Water System is safe. Water department staff pride themselves in their ability to provide you, our customer, with clean safe water. The table included in this report shows that water supplied by the Georgetown/Gateway System gets an excellent report card when compared to health standards.

All sources of drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some substances. All water sources, including rivers, lakes, reservoirs and wells, are fed by water that passes over the surface of the land or through the ground. The water dissolves naturally occurring minerals and materials. It can also pick up substances resulting from the presence of animal or human activity.

Substances that may be present in source water:

- ☐ Biological - may come from human, agriculture, or wildlife sources.
- ☐ Inorganic - can be natural, from storm run-off, or from industrial or domestic wastewater discharges.
- ☐ Pesticides and herbicides - may come from agriculture, storm runoff or residential use.
- ☐ Organic chemicals - may come from industrial or domestic processes, storm run-off or septic systems.
- ☐ Radioactive materials - can be naturally occurring or the result of mining or other human activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations that limit the amounts of certain substances in water provided by public water systems.

As new standards are established for drinking water, the City of Savannah will add new technology in order to be able to meet the new requirements. Please adhere to the state mandated water conservation restrictions as our water is a precious resource.

#### **Source of Water**

The Georgetown/Gateway System gets its water from the Floridan aquifer. This pristine source provides the Georgetown/Gateway System with a safe and dependable supply of water. The City's Water Supply and Treatment Department has been pro-active in protecting the Floridan aquifer. A Wellhead Protection Plan has been developed and approved by EPD. There are eight wells in the Georgetown/Gateway System, each between 600 and 660 feet deep, that pump water into the distribution system. The system pumped approximately 1.63 million gallons a day, to 12,238 customers, during 2013.

#### **Treatment Process**

The water pumped from the Floridan aquifer is very pure. The only treatment needed is chlorination. Chlorine is added to the water for disinfection purposes prior to entering the distribution system.

#### **About City of Savannah Water Supply and Treatment**

Savannah's city government works under the direction of a council/ manager form of government and has since 1954. The City Council meets every other Thursday at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, located at Two East Bay Street. These meetings are open to the public.

The City of Savannah has established a water conservation program. Information about this program or the state mandated water restrictions is available to anyone interested in conserving water, our most precious resource. The Water Conservation office is located at 6 Lower East Bay Street (Engineering) and can be reached by telephone at 912-651-2221.

Water Conservation has also established a Groundwater Guardian Team. If you are interested in learning more about this volunteer group, please call the Water Conservation office.

The City of Savannah Water Supply and Treatment Department business hours are from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The customer service and 24 hour a day emergency telephone number is 912-351-3434. If you did not receive a copy of this report and you would like to be added to our mailing list, please contact us at one of the telephone numbers above.

***For additional information about the quality of your drinking water call - City of Savannah Water Supply and Treatment Department - 912-964-0698. Billing information call 912-651-6460.***

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

**Additional Information:** WEB sites with information about water quality

<http://www.epa.gov/ow> <http://www.dnr.state.ga.us> <http://www.awwa.org>  
<http://www.ci.savannah.ga.us> <http://www.thempc.org/waterresources>

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA /Center for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

City of Savannah Water Supply and Treatment Department  
P.O. 4038  
Pt. Wentworth, GA 31407

The City of Savannah Water Laboratory performed more than 135,000 tests and procedures during 2013 to ensure water quality. Tests have been made on more than 160 water quality parameters. The City has met all sampling and reporting requirements. The following table lists all detected substances that require monitoring.

DRINKING WATER ANALYSIS  
Georgetown/Gateway System

Regulated Substances

Detected Parameters							
Substance Tested and Detected	Unit	Goal MCLG	Maximum Allowed MCL	Amount Detected	Range of Detection	Is It Safe? (Does It Meet Standards?)	Probable Source
Chlorine	ppm	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	1.94	0.53-1.94	Yes	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride <sup>3</sup>	ppm	4	4	0.38	0.34-0.38	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits
Copper <sup>1</sup>	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	0.120 (90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)	No sample > AL	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing
Lead <sup>1</sup>	ppb	0	AL=15	2.5 (90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)	No sample > AL	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing
Total Coliform Bacteria		0	Presence of coliform bacteria in >1 samples	1	NA	Yes	Naturally present in environment
Toluene	ppb	1,000	1,000	7.3	0.63 - 7.3	Yes	Discharge from petroleum factories
TTHM's (Total Trihalomethanes)	ppb	0	100	2.6	2.6	Yes	Byproduct of water chlorination
THAA's (Total Haloacetic Acids)	ppb	0	60	1.2	1.2	Yes	Byproduct of water chlorination

<sup>1</sup>Copper and lead are the only two substances monitored at the customer's tap. Last Monitored in 2012.  
<sup>3</sup>Last monitored in 2011.

<b>If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Savannah is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When you water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or at <a href="http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead">http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead</a>.</b>	
Symbol, Acronym, or Note	Definition
AL	<i>Action Level:</i> The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
MCL	<i>Maximum Contaminant Level:</i> The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
MCLG	<i>Maximum Contaminant Level Goal:</i> The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
MRDL	Maximum Disinfectant Residual Level: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
MRDLG	Maximum Disinfectant Residual Level Goal: The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
NA	Not applicable.
ND	Not Detected
ppm	<i>Parts Per Million:</i> 1 part per 1,000,000 (same as milligrams per liter) and corresponds to 1 minute in 2 years or 1 penny in \$10 thousand.
ppb	<i>Parts Per Billion:</i> 1 part per 1,000,000,000 (same as micrograms per liter) and corresponds to 1 minute in 2,000 years or 1 penny in \$10 million.
90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	Level used to determine compliance
>	Greater than.
<	Less than

Additional Testing, Research and Partnerships

The City of Savannah Water Supply and Treatment Department performs thousands of water quality tests each year in addition to those required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of Georgia's Environmental Protection Division (EPD). This pro-active approach ensures that our customers receive the highest quality drinking water.

Water Supply and Treatment also benefits from millions of dollars of research and professional operations development through its memberships in national and state professional organizations such as the American Water Works Association, Georgia Water and Pollution Control Association, Georgia Rural Water Association and Groundwater Guardian.

Further evidence of the efforts by the City of Savannah Water Supply and Treatment Department's employees to provide quality water to you, our customers, is the excellent rating received from the Environmental Protection Department's Multi-media Inspection.